A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, February 5. 1712.

IN my last, I gave you *part* of the Act of Parliament made in *Scotland*, for the Security of the *Presbyterian* Church there, and which was first touch'd with the Scepter, as an Act previous to, and pass'd before the Union; and afterwards receiv'd equal Sanction with the Union itself, being Encorporated into the Act of Union, and Inserted *Verbatim* in the Exemplification of the said Union pass'd in *England*; the rest of that Act is as follows.

" AND further, her Majesty by Ad-
" vice aforesaid, expresly Declares
" and Statutes, That none of the Subjects
" of this Kingdom shall be liable to, but
" all and every one of them for ever, free
" of any Oath, Test, or Subscription with-
" in this Kingdom, contrary to, or incon-
" sistent with the aforesaid true Protestant
" Religion, and *Presbyterian* Church-Go-
" vernment, Worship, and Discipline, as
" above Establish'd: And that the same
" within the Bounds of this Church and
" Kingdom, shall never be Imposed or re-
" quir'd of them in any sort; and lastly,
" That after the Decease of her present
" Majesty, (whom God long preserve) the
" Sovereign Succeeding to her, in the Roy-
" al Government of the Kingdom of *Great*
" *Britain*,

" *Britain*, shall in all Time coming, at His " or Her Accession to the Throne, Swear " and Subscribe, That they shall Inviolably " Preserve and Maintain the aforesaid Set- " tlement of the true Protestant Religion, " with the Government, Worship, Disci- " pline, Right and Privileges of this " Church as above Establish'd by the Laws " of this Kingdom, in Prosecution of the " Claim of Right. And it is hereby Sta- " tuted and Ordained, that this Act of " Parliament with the Establishment there- " in contain'd, shall be held and observed " in all Time coming, as a Fundamental " and Essential Condition of any Treaty or " Union, to be Concluded betwixt the two " Kingdoms, without any Alteration there- " of, or Derogation thereto, in any sort " for ever; as also that this Act of Parlia- " ment and Settlement therein contain'd, " shall be Inserted and Repeated in any " Act of Parliament that shall pass for A- " greeing and Concluding the aforesaid " Treaty or Union betwixt the two King- " doms; and that the same shall be therein " declar'd expressly to be a Fundamental " and Essential Condition of the said Trea- " ty or Union, in all Time coming. Which " Articles of Union, and Act immediately " above written, her Majesty with Advice " and Consent aforesaid, Statutes, Enacts " and Ordains, to be and continue in all " Time coming, the sure and perpetual " Foundation of a compleat and entire U- " nion between both Kingdoms of *Scotland* " and *England*, under this express Condi- " tion and Provision, That the Approbati- " on and Ratification of the aforesaid Ar- " ticles and Act, shall be no ways binding " on this Kingdom, until the said Articles " and Act, be Ratified, Approved, and " Confirmed by her Majesty, with and by " the Authority of the Parliament of *En-* " *gland*, as they are now Agreed to, Ap- " proved and and Confirmed by her Ma- " jesty, with and by the Authority of the " Parliament of *Scotland*; declaring never- " theless, That the Parliament of *England* " may provide for the Security of the " Church of *England* as they shall think ex- " pedient, to take Place within the said " Bounds of the Kingdom of *England*, and " not derogating from the Security above " provided, for Establishing the Church of " *Scotland* within the Bounds of this King- " dom; as also the said Parliament of *En-* " *gland* may extend the Additions and o- " ther Provisions contain'd in the Articles " of the Union, as above insert, in favour " of the Subjects of *Scotland* to, and in fa- " vour of the Subjects of *England*, which " shall not suspend or derogate from the " Force and Effect of this present Ratifica- " tion, but shall be understood as herein " included without the Necessity of any " New Ratification in the Parliament of " *Scotland*; and lastly, her Majesty Enacts " and Declares, that all Laws and Statutes " in this Kindom, so far as they are con- " trary to, and inconsistent with the Terms " of these Articles above-mention'd, shall, " from and after the Union, cease and be- " come void.

Now, Gentlemen, you that are so easie here, in seeing the Fate of the Church of *Scotland* determin'd in the manner that some would have it, let me give you a hint of two or three Things, in which the *Scots* trusted to the Generosity and Friend- ship of the *English*——— And having been upon the spot myself, I can give the more distinct Account of these Things.

You see now the *English* Liturgy being to be Establish'd, or Tolerated, call it what you will, in *Scotland*, it has been moved, That as none can be admitted here to Offi- ces, or Places of Profit and Trust, but such as shall take the Sacrament of the Church of *England*, &c. which we call the TEST, so none should be admitted now in *Scotland*, to Places, but such as should join in Worship with the Church of *Scotland* — I have no- thing to say to the Parliament's reject- ing this Proposal, nor to how equal and reason- able such a Proposal is— I have often said in *Scotland*, That it seem'd hard, since the Church of *England* will not admit one *Pres- byterian* to a Place in *England* of the least Profit, or Trust, that *English-Men* should

also

alſo come there, to eat the Bread out of the Mouths of *Scots-Men*, by enjoying thoſe few Places of Profit and Truſt which they have to beſtow, *as ſome very Scandalous ones did*, and neither comply'd with the Church, nor liv'd Peaceably with it, *as I know and can prove they did not*; for it was the *Engliſh* Officers in the Cuſtoms, &c. there, who firſt Encourag'd that *Sacred Profligate*, who lately ſet up the Liturgy in *Edinburgh*, tho' they were afterwards aſham'd of it, and diſown'd him.

But I ſhall ask a Queſtion, and Anſwer it for you; How came it to paſs, that at the Time of the Union, they did not impoſe a Teſt, to prevent you in all this? I'll tell you why, even becauſe they choſe to caſt themſelves upon *Engliſh Generoſity*; *Unhappy Credulity!* —— That there was ſuch a Propoſal made in the Commiſſion of the Aſſembly, at the Time of the Union, is evident; and two Reaſons were given againſt it;

1. That the making the Holy Sacrament a Teſt of Qualification for Civil Employment, they eſteem'd to be a Proſtituting that Holy Ordinance to a mean and baſe purpoſe, below its Inſtituted End, and therefore Sinful; and as they Condemn'd that Practice in *England*, they ought not to practiſe what they blam'd others for, and ſo they drop'd it—— Saying, ſurely the *Engliſh*, ſince they won't let us take Places with them, won't be ſo hard with US, as to come and take Ours from us.

2. The *Engliſh*, eſpecially if ſuch might be expected as were come there already to ſeek Places among them, were ſuch, as *not only* would take any Sacrament with any Church, to get Places; but *generally ſuch*, as the Church of *Scotland* would not admit to the Table of the Lord, or thought fit to receive it at all, if they came, and therefore they could not in Conſcience make a Law, to compel thoſe to come, who when they came to offer themſelves, could not be admitted.

For theſe Reaſons they declin'd it, in the Aſſembly of the Church; however, in the Parliament, *a Formula was Propos'd*, but again it was Refus'd there for this Reaſon, beſides the above, *viz.* That they could not believe their Brethren of *England* could deſire, that thoſe few Offices *Scotland* ſhould have to beſtow, ſhould not go among *the Presbyterians*, who were excluded from all their Offices in *England*; and ſo, as I ſaid, they caſt themſelves upon *Engliſh Generoſity*.

The *Formula* and *Clauſe* aforeſaid, was propos'd in *Parliament* in the 55*th Sederunt*. 10. *Jan.* 1707. And runs thus. " And " farther, it is Agreed, that ſo long as that " part of the Second Act, *An.* 25. *Ch.* II. " *Appointing a Sacramental Teſt*, ſhall ſtand " and continue in Force in *England*, all " Perſons in publick Truſt, Civil or Mili- " tary, within the Limits of *Scotland*, ſhall " Swear and Sign the Formula underwrit- " ten, within ſix Months after the Com- " mencements of the Union, and all who " ſhall be admitted to any Place of Truſt " thereafter, ſhall, before Exerciſing their " ſaid Office of Truſt, Swear and Subſcribe " the ſame, to be Adminiſter'd, by the " Lords of Privy Counſel, or any one of " them, under the like Penalties and Diſa- " bilities, as are provided by the aforeſaid " Act, made in the Parliament of *England*.

" Follows the *Formula*; I *A. B.* do Sin- " cerely and Solemnly declare in the Pre- " ſence of God, that I own the *Presbyteri- " an Government* of the Church, as by Law " Eſtabliſh'd in *Scotland*, to be a Lawful " Government of the Church, and that I " ſhall never, directly nor indirectly, en- " deavour the Subverſion thereof, nor any " Alteration in the Worſhip, Diſcipline, " or Government of the ſaid Church, as " by LAW Eſtabliſh'd; ſo help me " God.

But

But now, after all this Generous casting themselves upon the *English*, we see, that not as to the Votes in Parliament, for I am not meddling with what is doing there, but in *Scotland*, and among us here, the *Scots* themselves are forward, not only to exclude *Presbyterians* in *England*, from all Places and Preferments here, but to have the *English* run down thither, and take their own Places from them too; I could give you a detail here, of the Scandalous and Beastly Behaviour of many of the *English-Men* in Office there, such as Rudeness to Women, open Prophanation of the Lord's-Day, sitting in Ale-Houses and Taverns, on pretence they did not like to go to the Churches; coming into the Churches and behaving themselves Rudely and Indecently, Mocking and Laughing at the Worship of God; vile and publick Oaths and Blasphemies in their constant Discourse, and Drunkenness to that degree, that to be as Drunk as an *English-Man*, and to Swear like an *English-Man*, will soon become a Proverb in that Country; but I omit this, in hopes of Amendment, and because the Superior Officers, both of Custom-House, Excise, Exchequer, and other Offices, have not, either by their Example or Direction, been wanting to Correct and Reform it, and I mention it, to do them Justice.

It is a great Misfortune to *Scotland*, that some one, whether of their Own or Ours, who know these Things perfectly, does not labour to acquaint either her Majesty, or the Parliament, or the Ministry here, with the true State of that North part of the Nation, that Prejudices, False-steps, Injurious Rules &c. against Constitutions, might be prevented; since we all know, the Parliament, or the Queen, or the Ministry, aiming at Peace and Justice, would not willingly Wrong or Oppress them; and if any Thing is done which Consequentially may Oppress or Injure them, it must be through the Error of Misinformation, and woe be to those, who to carry on their private-Interest, or Party-Interest, wilfully Misrepresent Things; at their Door, and not at the Queen's or the *Parliament's*, shall the Ruin lie, and there shall the Righteous Judge of all expect and require it.

For my part, as I find the Liberty of speaking in Publick is not likely to last, I will not fail to do my part, to counter-act those Scandalous Betrayers of their Country; and tho' I know not but I may speak at the Hazard of my Life, *and believe I do, for some Reasons which I have heard of*, yet I will discharge my Conscience and Duty to the Church of *Scotland*, whose Ruin I see is aim'd at, and which however, shall not fall, for want of their Case being truly Stated, and the Lies, Frauds, and Treacherous Dealings of her Enemies, being Expos'd and Detected —— If my Liberty of Speech be taken away, I cannot help it, I shall still have the Satisfaction of having apply'd it Right while I had it; I am sure *the Government*, or *the Parliament*, can't be offended, that I endeavour to lay the true State of Things before them —— That they may see, and in Time Resent the Endeavours used by others to impose upon them.

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